



STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN No. 36 JANUARY 1963

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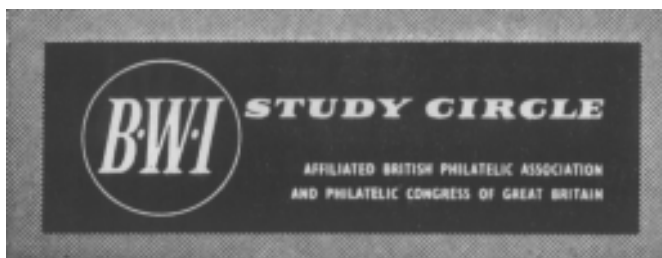
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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps of the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:

ANTIGUA	•	BAHAMAS	•	BARBADOS
BERMUDA	•	BRITISH GUIANA	•	BRITISH
HONDURAS	•	CAYMAN ISLANDS	•	DOMINICA
GRENADA	•	JAMAICA	•	LEEWARD ISLANDS
MONTSERRAT	•	ST. KITTS-NEVIS	•	ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT	•	TRINIDAD and TOBAGO		
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	•	VIRGIN ISLANDS		

2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features (including 'Opinions' Service and a 'Wants' Section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members.

MEMBERSHIP

3. TO operate a SALES CIRCUIT to enable members to dispose of their surplus material.

TO be WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all interested in the stamps or postal history of the above mentioned colonies and dependencies whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription to be £1 (\$3.00 non-sterling countries) due 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE".

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

LONDON MEMBERS 25

PROVINCIAL MEMBERS 121

Bedfordshire	2	Middlesex	3
Buckinghamshire	3	Norfolk	1
Cheshire	1	Northamptonshire	1
Cornwall	3	Northumberland	2
Derbyshire	6	Nottinghamshire	1
Devonshire	7	Shropshire	2
Dorset	1	Somersetshire	1
Co. Durham	2	Staffordshire	3
Essex	6	Suffolk	2
Gloucestershire	3	Surrey	14
Hampshire	5	Sussex	6
Hertfordshire	3	Warwickshire	6
Isle of Wight	1	Wiltshire	3
Kent	3	Worcestershire	1
Lancashire	5	Yorkshire	12
Isle of Man	1	Scotland	7
Northern Ireland	2	Wales	2

OVERSEAS MEMBERS 70

Australia	6	India	1
B.W.I.	6	South Africa	3
Canada	12	Sweden	1
Eire	2	Thailand	1
		U.S.A.	37

Total Membership **216**

SUBSCRIPTIONS

These fall due on **1st February (£1 or \$3 non-sterling countries)** and prompt payment saves both time and expense in sending reminders. Many members co-operate by effecting payment by Bankers' Order and the appropriate form will be gladly sent to any who do not already adopt this method upon application to the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer.

An up-to-date LIST OF MEMBERS will be included in the April Bulletin each year.

AUTUMN MEETING

The autumn meeting was held at 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1., on Saturday, November 3rd, at 2.30 p.m. with Commander G. Bridgmore Brown in the chair. Sixteen members attended.

The chairman warmly welcomed Mr. Peter Jaffe (Victoria, Australia), Mr. A. H. Latham and Mr. E. K., Thompson, who were attending a meeting for the first time.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter received from Mr. W. E. Gerrish, President of the British Philatelic Association regarding the collation of postal history material in public archives in Great Britain and requesting liaison between local societies and such public bodies. Whilst it was agreed that the Circle were not in a position to render much assistance it was pointed out by Colonel A. Murray that such material might be found in County Councils, particularly those at ports (he instanced Southampton) and this information could be passed on to the B.P.A. Mention was also made of the lectures being given by the British Philatelic Association.

The Hon. Secretary read out a letter received from Mr. E. F. Hugen, Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, regarding the Philatelic Congress Exhibition Fund. This was being organised by Congress to raise funds to aid the finances which would be necessary to run the next Intel-national Stamp Exhibition scheduled for 1969. Mr. Saunders said he had replied to Mr. Hugen, without any mandate from the Circle, agreeing to support the fund in some way; he recommended that the Circle contribute five guineas annually making a total donation of 45 guineas by 1969. After discussion members approved in principle of supporting the Fund but agreed to leave the matter over until the next Anniversary meeting in the Spring of 1963, by which time it might be seen what other local societies were doing and in the meantime the Hon. Secretary was asked to write further to Mr. Hugen.

The Hon. Secretary announced that the next Anniversary meeting followed by the Dinner would take place on Saturday, March 9th, 1963, when it was hoped that Sir Stephen Luke, Senior Crown Agent of the Colonies would be one of the guest speakers. Mr. Saunders intimated that holding the Dinner on a Monday as was the case this year had not been a success, hence the reversion to a Saturday date. The new venue would be the Phoenix Restaurant, Cavendish Square, W.1,

He then read out a letter received from Mr. Hooton Mitchell, a member resident in Belfast. Mr. Mitchell had asked the assistance of the Circle in

disposing of his collection of Bahamas privately to members and it was agreed that the matter should be ventilated in the next issue of the Bulletin.

A letter from Mr. R. Topaz (U.S.A.) was then read out in which he suggested that the Editor of the B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletin was welcome to reprint any items of interest from the "British Caribbean Philatelic Journal." Mr. Saunders observed that up-to-date it had been the Circle's practice not to reproduce anything from any other source and it remained for the members to decide whether or not we did so now. Although such action would be a change of policy it was agreed that to use such material might be a useful standby for the Editor and it was further agreed that if the Editor wished to reprint something really worthwhile when needed he should be at liberty to reproduce material, irrespective of the source of production, as long as he received permission.

Mr. A. E. Beach displayed on the tables a large part of his collection of TOBAGO which members viewed before the break for tea. Among the wealth of material shown the following were particularly noted: Cover handstamped "TOBAGO" in seriffed letters with the date in a second line below OCT. 4 1800 (the earliest date known to Mr. Beach). Earliest and latest dates of use of the large fleuron and first and second types of the small fleurons. Examples of registered letters and endorsed in red 1/- (for postage) and 6d, (for registration); one dated 1850, the other in 1852. Registration of letters for the Colonies and from the Colonies did not come into force until the 1st January, 1858. Examples of the Crowned Circle "PAID AT TOBAGO" were shown as were also G.B. 1d., 4d., 6d and 1/- stamps used in Tobago with the A14 canceller. Two such postmarks were sent to Tobago, the slight difference between each being mainly discernable by the height of the horizontal bar of the letter "A," Among covers of this period was one with a pair of G.B. 6d. with, in addition, the Crowned Circle "PAID AT TOBAGO" which is very unusual inasmuch that this mark was not supposed to be used in conjunction with adhesive stamps.

An item of great rarity was an artist's proof for the fiscal stamps, showing the use of the 1/- postage stamp of Dominica with the words "DOMINICA & POSTAGE" painted out in the circular band with the word "TOBAGO" painted in at the top and a wreath of leaves at the bottom. Following pages showed the first issue including the £1 mint and the stamps up to the 5/- value postally used. Mr. Beach stated that the £1 is known with a postal cancellation but he doubted if such a high value served a useful purpose. The 1880 ms. 1d. on half 6d. stamps were shown used and on pieces. Subsequent issues were fully represented, mint and used.

Then followed a complete and detailed study of the various surcharged provisionals, 1886 and 1896 comprising many rare multiple pieces, settings and the errors, as well as several unusual covers. The display ended with several pages devoted to the head and duty plate flaws and interesting cancellations.

Commander G. Bridgmore Brown showed a miscellany from his collection of BERMUDA in which he included the 1874 and 1873/75 surcharged provisionals. He pointed out a forgery of the "One Penny" surcharge with a round "O" which was new to him and unlike any other forged surcharges which he had seen and he was at present trying to discover its origin. A study of the 1902/3 "Dock" issue then followed commencing with a die proof on glazed card.

Mr. Peter Jaffe commenced his display with a photograph of an original sketch of St. LUCIA showing the phoenix motif, signed by the artist. In St. Vincent a "twin" pair of covers from well known correspondence showing in one case the St. Vincent datestamp in red and the other in black. Mr. Jaffe was eager to ascertain the relative rarity of the occurrence of these cancellations on covers. Examples of the 1881 ONE PENNY on 6d. and 4D. on 1/- provisionals were shown unused and used, and were followed by a fine selection of the Village marks; included among these were: "CH" (Chateaubelair) in red in 1/- on cover—the first cover recorded; "CUM" (Cumberland) also in full. "CO" (Colonies) and "G" (Georgetown) very rare - only known in red shown on a 6d., also on a 1/- used on cover (Ody correspondence) to England - five other covers are known. The rare "PERUVIAN VALE" cancellation sharing a "pair," the two single stamps of which he had acquired between a lengthy interval.

Mr. John B. Marriott showed further rare items from his well known collection of TRINIDAD commencing with covers showing various numeral cancellations. A cover with the 1863/75 (Id.) and 6d. used to Corsica with squared "3" postmark - 7d. rate. The (1d.), 4d. and 1/- for the 1/5d. single letter rate to Malta, handstamped "VIA MARSEILLES" in black with the squared "6" cancel, and a cover with the 6d. and 1/- (two) bearing the "TOO-LATE" mark in red and in black, which is very scarce. The 1876 6d. compound perf. used, also a very rare item.

Mr. E. K. Thompson commenced his display with G.B. used in ANTIGUA and in Antigua proper fine examples of the various trial perfs. of 1862 including two unused of S.G.2, and an unused pair of S.G.3. 1863/67 rough perf. a mint set. 1867 1d. a brilliant mint block of 40 from the Lincoln stock showing re-entries on two stamps; a used vertical pair of the 1d. imperf. between horizontally. An item of exceptional interest and

rarity was an original handpainted sketch dated 12 June 1879, with head and name plates for the Virgin Islands 2½d. red-brown of 1880; Antigua 2½d. and 4d. of 1879; Nevis 24d., 1879 and Montserrat 2½d and 4d. 1880 with colour scheme annotated below. A set of the Antigua 1884 Colour Trials, perf. 12 - very rare. BARBADOS then followed with the 1852/55 issue including the rare bisected (2d.) greyish slate used on "Prices Current" also a piece showing two halves for use as 2d. Several rare items followed in the 1855/57 and 1858 issues including two handsome mint blocks of the 6d. and 1/- of 1858; the 5/- of 1873 and the 1878 1d, on half 5/- an unsevered pair (Types A and B) all used together on piece, also Types B and C used together on piece with the 1/-. In MONTSERRAT, Mr. Thompson showed the 1876 6d. with inverted "S" mint.

Mr. E. Victor Toeg contributed a further study of the cancellations on LEEWARD ISLANDS stamps shown on all reigns and demonstrating the use of the duplex of St. Kitts "A12" with the inclusion of the letters "Sp" (Sandy Point) in the circular date stamp. The various types of circle with their measurements were all skilfully detailed and were shown on a fine range of stamps and postal stationery.

In closing the meeting the chairman expressed the members' thanks to all those who had contributed material thereby making the meeting one of great interest.

R.T.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

NINTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

This will be held at the usual venue, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1., on Saturday, March 9th at 2.30 p.m. Please do your best to attend and remember to bring along a few of your pages for display and a note of any problems you may desire to be discussed. This will be followed by the customary Dinner (dress informal) at the Phoenix Restaurant, 37 Cavendish Square, W.1. (7 for 7.30 p.m.). All being well, it is hoped that Sir Stephen Luke, K.C.M.G., the Senior Crown Agent, and Lady Luke, will attend. The charge will be 21/- per head (excluding wine but inclusive of gratuities). In order that the necessary arrangements can be made in good time a note of the number of seats to be reserved, together with the appropriate remittance, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary to reach him not later than **February 23rd, 1963.**

DISPLAY

TO THE GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

On 17th October last, the Study Circle gave a display to the Guildford & District Philatelic Society.

G. W. Groves showed SAINT VINCENT, with examples of the pre-adhesive handstamps. Great Britain used in Saint Vincent, the range of Perkins, Bacon issues, a selection of village postmarks and Paquebots.

J. L. Messenger's display was GRENADA and included two pre-adhesive strikes of CARRIACOU and the complete range of adhesives from 1861 to 1881, with S.G.1 mint, die and plate proofs, many blocks and strips and a number of covers.

Commander G. Bridgmore Brown showed a selection of BERMUDA, with the 1865-73 issues which included the 1d. rose-red imperforate, the provisionals of 1874/75 including forgeries, a number of soldiers' and sailors' letters dated between 1868 and 1898, demonstrating the varying rates of postage, die proofs of the Dock Type, and some examples of the early Postal Stationery.

The display was much appreciated.

NORTHERN MEETING - 8th SEPTEMBER, 1962

Eleven Yorkshire and Lancashire members of the Study Circle and one guest, gathered in Rochdale on Saturday, 8th September, to see a display given by Mr. R. V. Swarbrick.

Mr. Swarbrick presented an excellent paper and display, the later comprising items from his extensive collection with the emphasis on Jamaica. Among the highlights from this Island were included an almost complete range of obliterator postmarks on the 2d. rose, plate settings of the 2½/4d. of 1890, plate settings of the first Official overprint, two examples of the 1d. Pine bisect, a number of excellent T.R.D. strikes (including the only recorded copy on a post card of Bethel Town) and a pre-stamp example of the handstamp "6" used on an entire to May Hill. One Jamaican sheet which caused considerable interest contained a selection of the George VI 2/-d. (S.G. 131) blue and chocolate, with one copy of this stamp a very distinctive olive green shade instead of chocolate.

Mr. Swarbrick also showed some choice items from Grenada, Antigua, Barbados and the Virgin Islands and rounded the display off with complete sheets of the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co. Ltd. locals.

A description of this most enjoyable afternoon's gathering would not be complete without mentioning that we were very pleased to welcome as a guest Mr. John M. Buckner of Florida, U.S.A. Mr. Buckner, who was concluding a holiday in Europe had already visited some of our Yorkshire members during the previous week and it was a happy coincidence that we had a meeting which he could attend just a few days prior to his return to the States.

Northern members of our Study Circle hope to hold further meetings during the next six months and any member who would like to attend can obtain full details from Mr. F. Myers, 20 Armley Grange View, Leeds, 12.

NOTES AND QUERIES

BAHAMAS

Registration Cancellors

Gisburn in his book "The Postage Stamp and Postal History of the Bahamas" fails to mention in his chapter on Postal Markings, or in his article in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Nov. 1953 entitled "Postal Cancellations of the G.P.O. Nassau" the existence of a c.d.s. reading "REGISTERED NASSAU."

The canceller is 22 mm diameter single circle with REGISTERED around the top half of the circumference and NASSAU around the bottom half. Under Registered is the code letter A, B or C, and below that in two lines the date.

The only references I have seen to this canceller is in Bulletin No. 18, page 34 and No. 29, page 26. Both are by Mr. L. R. Coasby, who suggests in the latter that the canceller was "sent out 20 May 1893." My examples are:-

16 Dec. 1864 in red. Code letter B, an entire to London.

7 Feb. 1887 in red. Code letter A, an entire to London.

20 March 1894 in red. Code letter C, on postal stationery registered cover to London. 16 Apr. 1895 in brown. Code letter C, on 2½d. postal stationery cover to Leipzig.

3 Sept 1898 in black. Code letter C, on stamp (SG 52) 2½d. ultramarine.

BAHAMAS (contd.)

It would be most helpful if Members could give details of other examples of this canceller, which I am given to understand is relatively uncommon. Gisburn, in his book, illustrates his Type 30, but I have not seen an example of this "oval" canceller. It is noteworthy, however, that date and code letter (B.16 Dec. 1864) shown on Gisburn's illustration is the same as that in the first example in my collection as recorded above.

I have not lost sight of the information given by Branston on page 46-47 of the Bulletin No. 22. I look forward to seeing an example of this canceller.

The Sea Floor Post Office

For many years between the two World Wars, John Ernest Williamson, explorer and originator of undersea photography, studied marine life for which he was internationally famous. For this study he used a flexible and retractable steel tube some 3 to 4 feet in diameter which terminated in a spherical chamber with a large glass window. The tube was fixed in his boat, the Jules Verne III, and could be raised or lowered at will to the required depth. A ladder within the tube gave access to the chamber or "photosphere" where one could remain indefinitely in normal atmospheric pressure.

Nowhere in the world is the water so generally clear as the seas around the hundreds of Bahama Islands and probably the finest display of marine life anywhere to be seen is the world famous "Sea Gardens," situated close to Nassau, between Hog Island and Athol Island. It is said that the "gardens" here surpass all others in their gorgeous profusion of marine growths and brilliantly coloured fish. The 4d. stamp of the King George VI issue of 1938 illustrates these gardens and was reproduced from a photograph taken by Mr. Williamson in his photosphere.

The Bahamas Government took a keen interest in the Williamson studies and undersea explorations and in 1939 arrangements were made to admit visitors to the photosphere "with facilities for recording their experiences on the spot and posting them in the photosphere." The Government official announcement read as follows:-

THE MAILS

General Post Office
Nassau
Bahamas
26 July 1939

"The public is hereby notified that on 16 August next there will be established a Post Office in Mr. J. E. Williamson's 'Photosphere.' The name of this office will be 'Sea Floor'."

J. Herbert Peet
Postmaster of Bahamas.

The first undersea post office was opened on 16 August, 1939, by H.R.H. the Duke of Windsor, the then Governor of the Bahama Islands, who broadcast from the sea floor. In his opening words he said, "I am speaking from the photosphere some five fathoms deep under the water in the Sea Gardens off Nassau in the Bahama Islands. To-day's ceremony not only marks the official opening of the Sea Floor Post Office, which is located in the photosphere, but is also the inauguration of the new expedition to conquer the mysteries of submarine life . . . It is now my privilege and pleasure officially to declare the Sea Floor Post Office open for service to the public and by means of its facilities to send greetings to the President of the United States . . ."

The post office had about 60 square feet of floor space and by the end of opening day, under conditions far from ideal, no less than 10,000 pieces of mail had been dealt with, including many registered letters. The proceedings were supervised by Mr. Peet, the Postmaster of Bahamas, who was present to witness the closing of the office at midnight for first day cancellations. The work of cancelling the mail was carried out by Chief Postal Clerk John Pericles Maillis with Postal Clerk Vincent Caneino.

The advance announcement that this office was to be established created a world wide demand for first day covers and the Postmaster's office at Nassau was faced with the task of returning money and replying to requests from all over the world for these covers. It would greatly have simplified the work of the Postmaster if the regulations had permitted him to render this service to the public. Mr. Williamson was himself also besieged with requests from as far away as China and in some instances asked to send the covers C.O.D. History does not record the manner in which he dealt with his correspondents but no doubt the needs of some were satisfied. Part of the U.S.A. requirements were met by the arrival of a Pan American Airways seaplane which was sent especially on the morning of the first day to Nassau Harbour to collect the Sea Floor mail for delivery to Miami.

All mail was cancelled with an oval T.R.D. (Temporary Rubber Date stamp) reading at the top "SEA FLOOR" in block capitals, across the centre was the date in one line and below that "Bahamas" in lower case lettering. Cancellations are found in black, blue or violet and usually the strikes are exceedingly clear. Two cancellers were used, both of the same size and type but they are easily distinguishable by the setting of the letters forming the words SEA FLOOR and the positioning of the lettering in relation to the two lines forming the oval frame.

BAHAMAS (contd.)

On each cover was also struck in black by a rubber stamp the wording:-

Posted in Williamson Photosphere
at the bottom of Sea, Near Nassau,
In the Bahamas.

Here again, considerable care appears to have been taken to ensure the impression was clear and unsmudged.

A number of different First Day Covers were produced, but that most usually found has an illustration shewing Mr. and Mrs. Williamson seated in the photosphere looking through the glass window Above the picture are the words "First Day Cover" and below is a caption reading, "Looking into a Nassau, Bahamas, marine garden from the Williamson Photosphere where the first undersea Post Office in history was established to-day."

In May 1940, for the centenary of the first postage stamp, the office was in use again with a special illustrated cover shewing the Jules Verne III with the legend "FROM THE SEA FLOOR, NASSAU, BAHAMAS, ONLY UNDERSEA POST OFFICE IN THE WORLD MAY 6-m 1940 IOOTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNY BLACK, WORLD'S FIRST POSTAGE STAMP. POSTED IN WILLIAMSON PHOTOSPHERE." Some covers bearing the date 6 May, 1940, were signed personally by Mr. Williamson.

Information is not available as to exact periods when this unique post office was open for business. However, after May 1940, it was certainly again in use in October of the same year and for a further spell. in March. 1941.

R. H. Austin

BARBADOS

All unrecorded postmark

For some years I have had several stamps showing part of the postmark illustrated and it is only recently that I came across the 'missing' segment. Have any members seen this postmark before? If so will they please send me details.

Editor.



BRITISH GUIANA

British Guiana T.P.O.s

The Berbice River Steamer T.P.O. has served the villages along the river since 1881, at first as far as Coomacka, latterly as far as Paradise (106 miles up-river). In 1943, a Postal Agency was opened at Kwakwani, a bauxite mining settlement 34 miles beyond Paradise. Its mails were conveyed to the T.P.O. terminus by private enterprise (the Reynolds Metals Company's tug).

But on 1.12.1959, a new T.P.A. was inaugurated - with Mr. Leon Saul as P.A. on board the Launch "Parakeet" - to serve the villages of the Upper Berbice River. The "Parakeet" (date-stamp below) is actually used for the T.P.A. on the Canje Creek, but is not needed full-time, so it spends Monday and Tuesday on the Canje run, and Thursday and Friday on the Upper Berbice run each week.

These two date-stamps are, therefore, used on board the same launch, though on different days, in different places, and by different Postal Agents, for Mr. Saul is the T.P.A. only for the Berbice run.

(NOTE: Later strikes of "Parakeet" show "T.P.A." spaced more closely),

Members who use the system of classification introduced by the late Mr. P. W. Hosking in an admirable series of articles in "Stamp Collecting" in 1958, may like to list the "Parakeet" under his Type 28.



T.P.A. Bonasika Creek

A T.P.A. for the Bonasika Creek was established on 1.10.1955. Examples of its date-stamp (shown above) are very hard to find. In 1960, the P.A. told me that he had no date-stamp, and his letters came either uncanceled, or stamped at Fort Island.

The only village P.A. in the district at that time was Warimia, which was closed on 1.11.1960. A new P.A. was opened at Two Mouth on 1.5.1962.

BRITISH GUIANA (contd.)

And, lo and behold, the c.d.s. in use at Two Mouth is obviously our old friend the missing T.P.A.. Bonasika Creek c.d.s., with the "T" removed, to make it "P.A." So presumably the T.P.A. is still without a date-stamp.

F G. Howe

BRITISH WEST INDIES

First Dated Postmarks

The first dated postmarks in the West Indies owed their origin to a source quite outside the normal postal organisations. The following is a copy of a letter written by the P.M.G. to the Treasury and dated 6th Oct. 1798:-

My Lords,

I have the honour to enclose a referentation from the Committee of Underwriters at Lloyds' Coffee House, stating a circumstance where it is conjectured an attempt has been made to defraud the Insurers of a vessel coming from Martinique to London, and praying, that with a view to lessen the practicability of such attempt hereafter, directions may be given to the Deputy Postmaster in the West Indie Islands, to put a stamp with the date of the day on which any letters may be put into their respective offices.

The reasonableness of the application, its good object, and the respectability of the applicants will, I presume, induce your Lordships to consent to their wishes.

The reasons which might be urged against the granting permission to use these stamps indiscriminately cannot I presume apply to the West Indies, where the Deputies are well informed men, and capable of performing the duties with accuracy. All which, etc.

(Signed) F. Freeling.

This letter was returned promptly with the following minute added:

8th October.

Very right. Let the Postmasters in the West Indie Islands be directed to make use of a Stamp specifying the day on which any letters may be put into their respective offices.

(Signed) Leicester,

Auckland.

It is doubtful if these dated marks could have been made, sent out, and come into use much before the early part of 1799. These two line dated marks have certainly been noted for that year used in Jamaica and Antigua. It would be interesting to hear from Members the dates of earliest use of these marks in the various Islands.

L. E. Britnor.

JAMAICA

Haughton River Wreck Cover

Gibbons Stamp Monthly, November 1927, page 39, records one of these covers, recently I had sight of another which has now gone to the U.S.A., and obtained further details:-

Extract from the 13rd Annual Report of the Post Office for 1½ years ended list March, 1891 :

"On the night of Tuesday the 18th February, 1890, while the Mail Cart engaged in the conveyance of the mails between Kingston and Annotto Bay was crossing the "Haughton River" about four miles out of Annotto Bay, it was washed away - the mules being drowned and the van smashed, and the contents which consisted of the mails from Kingston and Anotto Bay for Port Maria, as well as a bag for New York, were washed away. An Officer was immediately dispatched from Kingston to try and recover the lost Mail and I am glad to say through his energy and that of Sergeant-Major Alien of the Constabulary the bag from Kingston which also contained the mail for New York was recovered and brought back to Kingston intact, and although the mail had been submerged for nearly 24 hours the contents were in a good state of preservation and were forwarded to the respective addresses.

In the mail in question there were 35 Registered letters and about 1,000 Ordinary letters."

A label 90 x 50 mm. was printed and affixed to the back of each letter (lettering in a Roman face printed in black area approximately 80x40 mm.).

This Postal Packet was contained in the Mail Bag from Kingston for New York via Port Maria, Jamaica, for despatch per S.S. "Bergenseren," which Mail Bag was washed away in the "Haughton River" near Annotto Bay, on the night of Tuesday the 18th instant, and which was subsequently recovered.

FRED SULLIVAN,

Postmaster for Jamaica.

General Post Office,
21st Feb., 1890.

The cover reported by Gibbons as shown by Mr. Marcus Chambers in 1927 was seen by Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, and he records the following details: Three 1d. Key Plate stamps obliterated G 13 and single ring Half Way Tree 18 Feb. 1890, also squared circle Kingston 18 Feb 1890 and 24 Feb. 1890 in black, Jamaica Paid 22 Feb 1890 in red (Type M7 1928 Handbook). Backstamped Richmond, Surrey 15th March 1890.

The cover recently seen shows no sign of wetting and was addressed Mepes. Park, Macfadyen & Co., 25 Lime Street, London and endorsed 'per Bergenseren via Port Maria & New York'. Stamped with four 1d. Key Plate top right and 4d. Orange bottom left, all cancelled small squared circle.

JAMAICA (contd.)

KINGSTON

I I also Boxed JAMAICA PAID in red
FE 18 on front 22 FE 1890 90

JAMAICA

on reverse small squared circle Kingston I C FE 24 90 Jamaica and London
Receiving marks in red

LONDON E C

M
MR 15 90
AA

LONDON E C

I
MR 17
90
D

In view of the length of time since the printing of the Gibbons article, and the scarcity of such covers, has anyone any further details, or record of any other copies, including the present whereabouts of Mr. Marcus Chambers' copy?

W. H. Crow.

In regard to the query by A. Latham (Bulletin No. 34, Page 46), I have a cover from Montego Bay to Edinburgh dated at Kingston on May 17 99. A ms. 2/2 has been scratched out and a ms. "Paid 1/3" has been written instead. Then a black ms. 2/2 has been inscribed. It would seem that the 1/3 was the rate from Montego Bay to Kingston and the 2/2 the rate from Kingston to England to be paid at destination.

I show the same rate for a letter from Montego Bay to Spanish Town that was apparently written in Nov. 1817. I have two letters written after 1822 that do not carry this rate.

Does any member have a cover showing the use of the A54 Obliterator type H (first type) at Mile Gully ? ? ?

Has any member first hand knowledge of the existence of the early single ring (19th century) mark used at Highgate or Salt River? If so, dates please.

R. Topaz

TOBAGO

I have been shown a cover from Tobago of 1797 with a handstruck TOBAGO, in serif letters, measuring 30mm. x 5mm., without date. It is similar to the St. Vincent mark, RL type PD of 1793/96. It is the first time that I have seen this mark used for Tobago and I believe is unrecorded.

A. E. Beach.

TRINIDAD

Trinidad Post Masters (1851-1914)

JAMES H. O'BRIEN: 13th August 1851—1st June 1853.

He assumed his duties as Postmaster of the General Post Office in Port of Spain the day before the Inland Postal Service started. Signed himself "General Postmaster,"

ELLYS LAYTON: 1st June, 1853 - 14th December, 1860.

Signed himself "Colonial Postmaster."

WILLIAM EVERSLEY: 14th December, 1860 - 1865.

Signed himself "Postmaster-General of the Colony."

CHARLES CHIPCHASE: 1865 - 13th October, 1866.

HENRY CHIPCHASE: 13th October, 1866 - 31st December, 1878.

He was the brother of Charles Chipchase. It was moved, and agreed to, in the Legislative Council 1st April, 1879, that they should have a pension of £306 5s. 0d. p.a. on his retirement through failing health.

JAMES WOODFORD O'BRIEN: 1st January, 1879 - 7th October, 1882.

He was the son of James H. O'Brien and had previously been chief clerk in the Audit Office. He was suspended from duty on 7th October, 1882, this suspension being confirmed by the Executive Council on 30th November, O'Connell Fitzgerald, Colonial Storekeeper, was appointed to act as Postmaster-General from 7th October, 1882.

J. A. BULMER: 1st September, 1883 - 1903.

He was formerly Postmaster of Cyprus. His appointment as Postmaster-General was announced by the Colonial Secretary, J. Scott Bushe, on 22nd May and he assumed his duties from 1st September. His salary in 1898 was £550 p.a.

ALFRED ERNEST CLARENCE ROSS 7th December, 1903 - 1921.

Mail for Coolie Immigrants

In 1885 Indian Embossed Envelopes were imported into Trinidad and sold at 5½d. each. Coolies wishing to ensure a reply to their letters and also, as in many cases, to save their poorer friends in India the cost of postage, were urged to enclose one of these envelopes in the letters they were forwarding to India.

It was reported that very large numbers of letters insufficiently prepaid or wholly unpaid were reaching this Colony from India. More than 2/3 were refunded by the addressees after they had carefully examined the envelopes. Certain signs or marks on the cover no doubt gave the desired

TRINIDAD (contd.)

information - not at all an uncommon practice in U.K. before the introduction of the penny post.

It should be of great interest to the writer to see any Indian embossed envelopes addressed to Trinidad about this time.

Ship Letters

There was a very large decrease in the number of letters received in Trinidad by Sailing Vessels in the period 1883 - 1888.

This was due to the fact that contrary to the Postal Ordinance, a regular collection of letters was being made by the Captains of small Sloops trading between St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago now the colony of Trinidad for the sake of the 2d. they received on each letter so conveyed. The letters were handed in loose and there were frequent complaints of missing letters without it being possible to trace where they were lost. During 1888 therefore the Postmaster-General saw each captain and explained the ordinance to him and arranged that any letter requiring to come by these vessels should be taken to the Post Office of the Port of departure and then made up into a mail. The sum of 2d. for each letter so enclosed in the mail bag being still paid to the captain. The result was that letters now came through the Post Office mainly by Subsidized and other Steamers, and whilst there was less cost to the Department, much greater security was obtained.

J. B. Marriott.

TRINIDAD

The Circle's next Paper will be the most ambitious it has yet issued. Paper No. 3 will be a very detailed study by John B. Marriott, F.R.P.S.L. of The Philatelic History of Trinidad to 1862.

Fully illustrated, it covers the early postal history, the "Lady McLeod" local, the separate printings of the Government issues, including the lithographs, down to 1862 (the end of the Perkins Bacon period), and an authoritative study of the numeral and other cancellations with indications of their relative scarcity. Mr. Marriott hopes to deal with the subsequent issues in a later Paper.

Paper No. 3 will be published on 1st February, 1963, at 20/- (Canada and U.S.A. \$3) including postage. Reduced price to Circle Members 15/- (Canada and U.S.A. \$2.25) including postage provided that they order before 1st February, 1963. Order forms are enclosed.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Some months ago, while convalescing after an illness, I found it necessary to occupy myself during my enforced leisure and it occurred to me that it might be interesting to read again every copy of the BULLETIN in my possession, and this I proceeded to do.

Needless to say, the process of reading each BULLETIN again proved to be fascinating and took up the greater part of a whole day. As some members will know by now, I collect the stamps of the Leeward Islands, and bearing this in mind, I was struck most forcibly during my re-reading of the BULLETINS by the dearth of enquiries and information concerning the Virgin Islands. The only enquiry that I could find about the Virgin Islands was one by Mr. W. Frazer in BULLETIN No. 13, April, 1957, which has never been answered so far as I am aware. Rather belatedly I propose to answer Mr. W. Frazer's enquiry for the benefit of members generally by confirming that the name is "COWAN & SONS", as he presumed it was. I have seen a sheet of Virgin Islands stamps reconstructed to prove this precise point, and I imagine Mr. W. Frazer also will have seen this same reconstructed sheet some time after he made his enquiry. Further, no member seems to have contributed any information other than that of a general nature to the BULLETIN so far relating to the Virgin Islands and consequently I am setting out below some information relating to obliterations and cancellations gleaned from my collection consisting very largely of Leeward Islands stamps with tracings of the obliterations and cancellations referred to, which are to be found within the period 1890 to 1956.

I have no cancellation of the sub post office at East End. If anyone has such a cancellation I hope a tracing of it will be inserted in a later BULLETIN.

1. The "A91" 'killer.' This obliterator consists of an horizontal oval 16½mm. high and 21½mm. wide comprising three graduated bars at the top and three graduated bars at the bottom with "A91" in the centre and enclosed at each side by two short and slightly curved parallel bars.

This obliterator was allotted to the Virgin Islands some time before 1872, having previously been used on Atlantic mail boats since 1859. It is to be found on covers from the Virgin Islands to the end of the Nineteenth century and occasionally slightly later. Some years ago it was generally thought that this obliterator and a number of other obliterations were applied at Naval Stations. This mistaken belief was based upon the fact that most surviving covers were of Naval origin. The note on "Mail Boat

VIRGIN ISLANDS (contd.)

Obliterations" on page 68 of Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Part One is, therefore, inaccurate.

There appear to be slightly different types and sizes of the "A91" obliterator.

This obliterator was in use on stamps of the Leeward Islands from 1890 to about 1909.



(1)



(2)

2. The c.d.s. "VIRGIN ISLANDS" with star and date measuring 24 mm, in diameter in use between July 1897 and December 1902. I imagine, however, that this cancellation must have been in use for some years before 1897. Can anyone confirm this ?

3. The double c.d.s. "ANEGADA BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS" with two short thick curved bars and the day and month in the centre measuring 27a mm. and 18 mm. respectively in diameter. The year is not indicated in this cancellation, but I have the cancellation on a cover with King George VI stamps and the cover has been backstamped in violet ink "PASSED BY CENSOR V.Is.". The cancellation on this cover, therefore, must have been impressed within the period 1939-1945.



(3)

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

By the time this issue reaches you another Christmas will have passed and I trust that all members had an enjoyable time and I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for 1963. Now that the dark evenings are with us now is the time to catch up with the many odd jobs in connection with our stamps such as mounting, re-arranging, etc. Then there are the gaps here and there that we hope to fill. A careful scrutiny of the many items listed in our pages is well worthwhile as it is more than likely an item you have been looking for is mentioned. Elsewhere you will find an announcement concerning our Anniversary Meeting and Dinner. The date fixed (March 9th) is somewhat earlier than usual due to the fact that care has been taken not to clash with STAMPEX, which is being held from 15th to 23rd March. I do hope this will result in a record attendance, particularly as the new venue is so centrally situated - just two minutes from Oxford Circus. I was a little disappointed to meet so few of our members at the B.P.A. Convention at Cambridge last October. It was a most enjoyable afternoon with many interesting displays amidst most comfortable surroundings. The B.P.A. go to great pains in arranging these Conventions and those who are unaware of the advantages of membership would be well advised to get in touch with the Assistant Secretary at 3 Berners Street, London, W.1. In the last issue I referred to a visit from a member from overseas. Since then I have had the pleasure of entertaining Dr. J. M. Lockie of Manitoba, Canada, and all being well I have been promised a visit from Mr. Colin H. Bayley of Toronto some time this year. In conclusion, I have pleasure in extending a warm welcome to the following new members - J. N. Thompson (U.S.A.), T. J. Strachan (South Africa) and B. Winbladh (Sweden). Now that we are represented in Scandinavia, is it possible that one day we shall get behind the "Iron Curtain"?

P.T.S.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Members who are interested in Antigua, Barbuda Dominica, Leeward Islands, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Virgin Islands are strongly recommended to obtain from Harmer, Rooke & Co., Ltd., 2 Arundel St., Strand, London, W.C. 2 a copy of the catalogue of the collection formed by H. Douglas Bessemer Esq., which is being sold on February 14th & 15th next. Some most interesting material is being offered and the catalogue, which is profusely illustrated is in itself worthy of preservation.

P.T.S.

*2/6 post free (5/- if List of Prices realised is required)

Paper No. 2: The Postal Markings of Barbados.

Supplement No. I

It has been noted that many who subscribed to Paper No. 2 would appear to have overlooked the announcement of the Supplement in Bulletin No. 33, page 35. It is suggested that early application be made to the Hon. Secretary for a copy which contains much additional information. The price to members is 3/- post free (Canada and U.S.A. 50 cents).

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